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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/518,804	CITTERIO, ANTONIO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hargobind S. Sawhney	2875	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 12/17/4.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/17/2004
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-12 are allowed.

The prior art of record, including Clark et al. (US Patent No.: 4,651,012) and Hoover et al. (US Patent No.: 3,869,615), does not show or suggest the applicant's invention as claimed. Specifically, the prior art of record does not disclose a light diffuser combining:

- uniformly distributed openings over entire surface of a first plate; and a plurality of openings, of different diameter and coaxial with the openings of the front plate, distributed on different parts of an internal plate, which is positioned parallel to the first plate as recited in each of independent claims 1 and 5.

The above-indicated combination, including a diffuser with front and internal perforated parallel plates each with openings and their distribution as detailed above, makes this invention unique. Characteristic of light emerging out of the above detailed diffuser is typical, which would result from the above-indicated arrangement of the perforated parallel plates.

Clark et al. ('012) discloses a projection system including front and rear perforated parallel plates; each of the front and rear size plates including a plurality of equal sized openings spread over the entire surface; Further, sizes and densities of the openings in the front plate are different than those of the openings of the rear plate. Therefore, Clark et al. ('012) does not meet the limitations of each of independent claims 1 and 5.

Hoover et al ('615) discloses a collimator comprising a light source facing a plurality of perforated parallel plates each including randomly distributed openings; the openings in one plate having size different than that in another parallel plate. On the other hand, the claimed diffuser includes: uniformly distributed openings over entire surface of a first plate; and a plurality of openings, of different diameter and coaxial with the openings of the front plate, distributed on different parts of an internal plate. Therefore, Hoover et al. ('615) does not meet the limitations of each of independent claims 1 and 5.

Therefore, each of the independent claims 1 and 5 are allowed over prior art.

Claims 2-4, 9 and 10 are allowed because of their dependency on the allowed base Claim 1.

Claims 6-8, 11 and 12 are allowed because of their dependency on the allowed base Claim 5.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bigham (U.S. Patent No. 4,460,832), Dedden et al. (US Patent No.: 4,665,036),
Albert (U.S. Patent No. 4,465,540)

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hargobind S Sawhney whose telephone number is 571 272 2380. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571 272 2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HSS

9/11/06



ALI ALAVI
PRIMARY EXAMINER